Retro Pages: #19 “The Play’s the Thing”

In the distant past, commencement exercises at St. Stanislaus College were a two-day affair due to so many out-of-town students whose parents and grandparents traveled to Bay St. Louis for the graduation ceremonies. The first day of ceremonies usually included a concert by the school’s renowned orchestra as well as a classical drama production featuring the graduates themselves. Drama has a long and glorious history here at SSC.

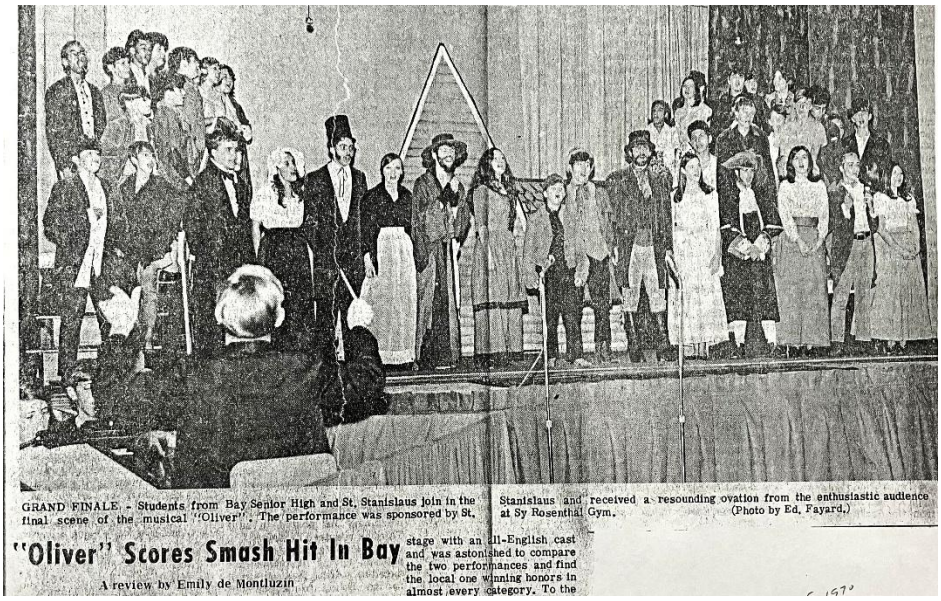
In the not so distant past, the Drama Club at St. Stanislaus flourished, especially from 1968 to 1973 when Beverly Zimmerman, long-time secretary and member of the Hall of Fame at SSC, produced some outstanding plays. In the St. Stanislaus Archives, among the collection of items donated by the Zimmerman family is a silver charm bracelet featuring six of the plays that she produced:

1. 1968 *Billion Dollar Saint*
2. 1969 *Lo and Behold*
3. 1970 *Oliver* (February 27-28, 1970)
4. 1971 *My Fair Lady* (March 19-20, 1971)
5. 1972 *Mister Roberts*
6. 1973 *Oklahoma* (February 24, 1973)

On the shelves in the Archives Room are also two silver cups that were mementos from two other plays—*Oklahoma* and the *Billion Dollar Saint.*

Two of the most memorable performances were *Oliver* and *My Fair Lady.* As producer. Mrs. Zimmerman had a lot of help. A key person was Burt Barrett, the cast director, who worked for several years at the Bay Little Theater. The two musicals could not have taken place without the orchestra under the direction of Davis Williams of SSC, who also led the chorus assisted by Brother Eduardo. For both *Oliver* and *My Fair Lady,* students from Bay Senior High joined with the Drama Club members at St. Stanislaus to produce a truly outstanding performance. More than thirty students took part in each play and six Brothers and more than twenty other adults helped with the various aspects of the production.

The audience at each production of *Oliver* was provided with a 20-page program that included photos of the rehearsals, a complete listing of cast members, and names of all the members of the orchestra and chorus, as well as the names of all who helped with the production. The booklet also contained a synopsis of the play. The program for *My Fair Lady* was even longer at 28 pages.



GRAND FINALE - Students from Bay Senior High and St. Stanislaus join in the final scene of the musical "Oliver". The performance was sponsored by St. Stanislaus and received a resounding ovation from the enthusiastic audience at Sy Rosenthal Gym. (Photo by Ed, Fayard.)

"Oliver" Scores Smash Hit In Bay

A review by Emily de Montluzin

stage with an all-English cast and was astonished to compare the two performances and find the local one winning honors in almost every category. To the

The March 5, 1970, issue of *The Sea Coast Echo* in an article by Emily de Montluzin gave described the students' performance in *Oliver* as "an absolute delight" and ran a five-column wide photo of the cast taken at the grande finale.

Oliver

CAST

Oliver	Royal Kraft
Fagin	Armond Jonte
Artful Dodger	David Cearnal
Bill Sikes	Pierre Leger
Nancy	Mary Ellen Murphy
Bet	Sharon McKenna
Mr. Bumble	David Macrae
Mrs. Corney	Colette Zimmerman
Mr. Brownlow	Kenneth Decker
Mr. Sowerberry	Paul La Chapelle
Mrs. Sowerberry	Cathy Johnson
Noah Claypole	Mike Flynn
Dr. Grimwig	Chuck White
Mrs. Bedwin	Lynn Phillips
Old Sally	Kathi Blaize
Charley Bates	Newman Braud
Old Lady	Cheryl Blaize
Chairman	Robert Koch
Charlotte	Cheryl Blaize
Fagin's Boys:	

Steve Pailet, Jay Schilleci, Charles Matthews, Tim Berner, Alex Krajina, J. J. Bennett, Brad Morris, Larry Crowson, Michael Weber, Keith LeBeaux, Arlie LeBeaux, Patrick McMahon, Richard McMahon, Buddy Zimmerman.

We wish to express our appreciation to all those who helped to make this production possible.

Our thanks to Brother Lee Barker, S.C. and Mr. Donald Caldwell for their cooperation.

Mrs. Beverly Zimmerman	Producer
Burt Barrett	Director
Mrs. Betty Lou Nay	Choreography
Mrs. E. B. Martin	
Brother Aquin Gauthier	Business Manager
Brother Carl	Technical Director
Brother John Garst	Lights & Sound
Brother William McCue	Ticket Sales
Jules Lagarde	Art Work
Stephen Laurent	
Terri Martin	
Holly Ames	
Gerard Weyman	
Dan Rosenthal	Stage Managers
Robert Welsh	
Brother Melvin	Construction

MUSIC

Davis Williams	Director
Miss Mary Langford	Pianist

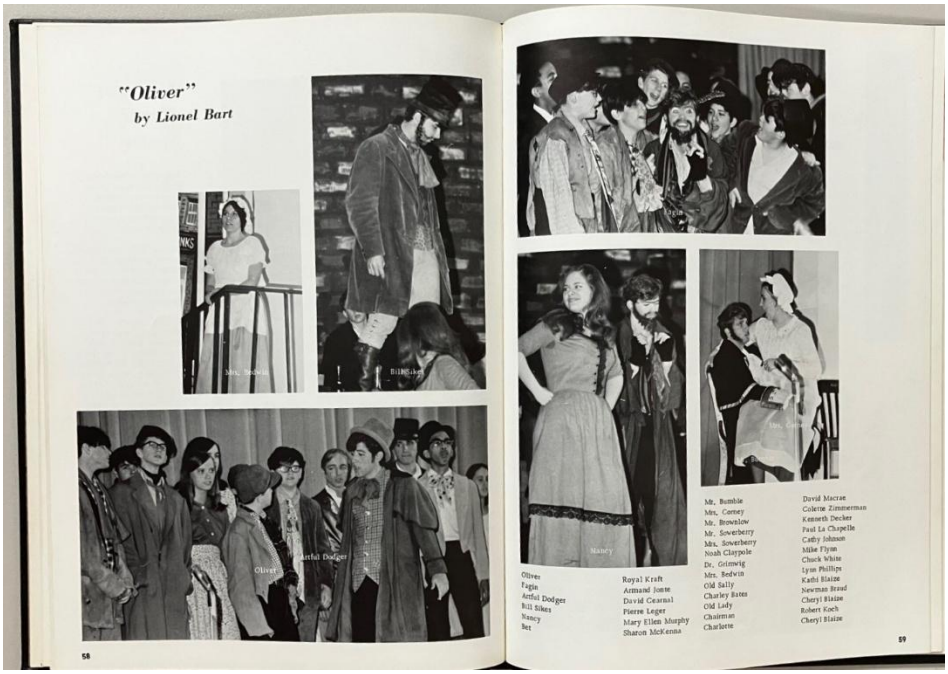
ORCHESTRA

Dennis Carver	Brother Gary
Maureen Stamn	Mike Ostrick
Beth Monti	Victor Franckiewicz
Terri Monti	John Walton
Jan Strahan	Richard Smith
John Lupo	Kirt Kelner
Wayne Ducomb	Bill Harreld

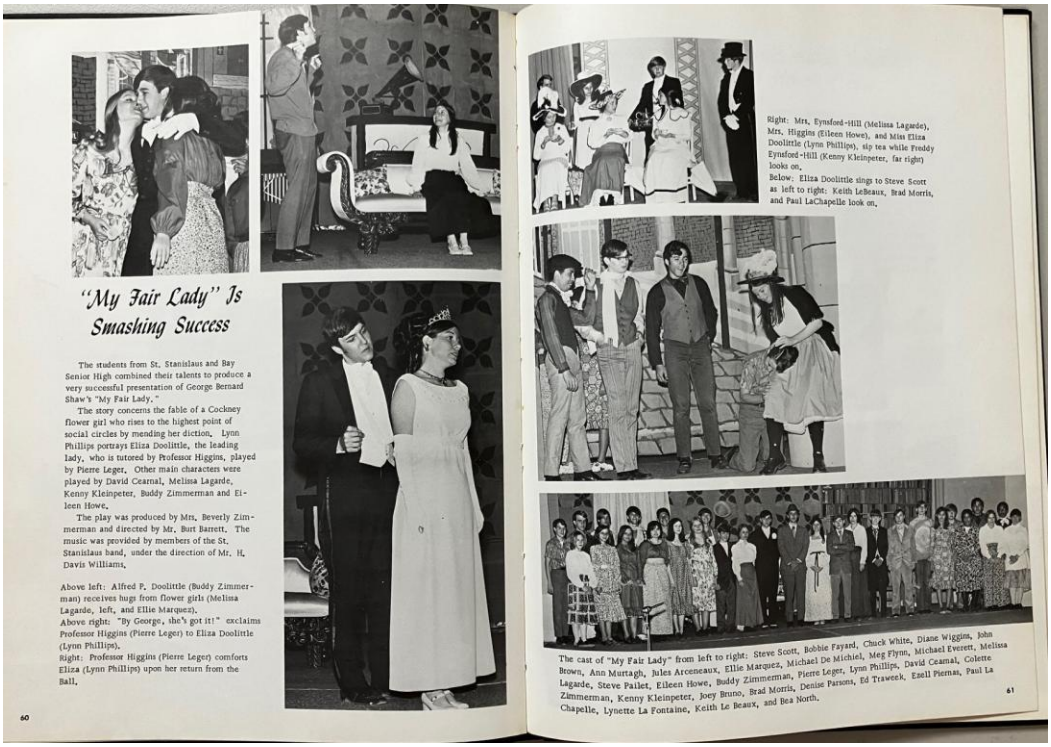
CHORUS

Dana White	Nancy Bilbo
Carol Martin	Debbie Mauffray
Susan Aguzin	Mary Azlin
Franya Franckiewicz	Ezell Piernas

This production by arrangement with Tams–Witmark Music Library, Inc., 757 Third Avenue, N.Y., N.Y.



The St. Stanislaus yearbooks, *Reflections 1970* and *Reflections 1971*, have double page spreads for each performance with pictures taken by professional photographers.


"My Fair Lady" Is Smashing Success
The students from St. Stanislaus and Bay Senior High combined their talents to produce a very successful presentation of George Bernard Shaw's "My Fair Lady."
The story concerns the fable of a Cockney flower girl who rises to the highest point of social circles by mending her diction. Lynn Phillips portrays Eliza Doolittle, the leading lady, who is tutored by Professor Higgins, played by Pierre Leger. Other main characters were played by David Cearnal, Melissa Lagarde, Kenny Kleinpeter, Buddy Zimmerman and Eileen Howe.
The play was produced by Mrs. Beverly Zimmerman and directed by Mr. Burt Barrett. The music was provided by members of the St. Stanislaus band, under the direction of Mr. H. Davis Williams.
Above left: Alfred P. Doolittle (Buddy Zimmerman) receives hugs from flower girls (Melissa Lagarde, left, and Ellie Marquez).
Above right: "By George, she's got it!" exclaims Professor Higgins (Pierre Leger) to Eliza Doolittle (Lynn Phillips).
Right: Professor Higgins (Pierre Leger) comforts Eliza (Lynn Phillips) upon her return from the Ball.
Right: Mrs. Eynsford-Hill (Melissa Lagarde), Mrs. Higgins (Eileen Howe), and Miss Eliza Doolittle (Lynn Phillips), sip tea while Freddy Eynsford-Hill (Kenny Kleinpeter, far right) looks on.
Below: Eliza Doolittle sings to Steve Scott as left to right: Keith LeBeaux, Brad Morris, and Paul LaChapelle look on.
The cast of "My Fair Lady" from left to right: Steve Scott, Bobbie Fayard, Chuck White, Diane Wiggins, John Brown, Ann Murtagh, Jules Arceneaux, Ellie Marquez, Michael De Michiel, Meg Flynn, Michael Everett, Melissa Lagarde, Steve Pailet, Eileen Howe, Buddy Zimmerman, Pierre Leger, Lynn Phillips, David Cearnal, Colette Zimmerman, Kenny Kleinpeter, Joey Bruno, Brad Morris, Denise Parsons, Ed Traweek, Estell Pierran, Paul La Chapelle, Lynette La Fontaine, Keith Le Beaux, and Bea North.
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61

CAST My Fair Lady

(In Order of Appearance)

Mrs. Eynsford-Hill	Melissa Lagarde
Eliza Doolittle	Lynn Phillips
Freddy Eynsford-Hill	Kenny Kleinpeter
Colonel Pickering	David Cearnal
A Bystander	Richard McMahon
Henry Higgins	Pierre Leger
First Cockney	Keith LeBeaux
Second Cockney	Brad Morris
Third Cockney	Joey Bruno
Bartender	Mike Everett
Harry	Joey Bruno
Jamie	Steve Pailet
Alfred P. Doolittle	Buddy Zimmerman
Mrs. Pearce	Colette Zimmerman
Mrs. Hopkins	Ezell Piernas
Butler	Keith LeBeaux
Maid	Ezell Piernas
Maid	Ellie Marquez
Footman	Brad Morris
Mrs. Higgins	Eileen Howe
Chauffeur	Richard McMahon
Lord Boxington	Ed Traweek
Lady Boxington	Lynette LaFontaine
Constable	Paul LaChapelle
Flower Girl	Becky Hudson
Footman	Paul LaChapelle
Zoltan Karpathy	Ed Traweek
Queen of Transylvania	Ellie Marquez
Ambassador	Richard McMahon
Mrs. Higgins' Maid	Becky Hudson
CHORUS	Jules Arceneaux
	Michael De Michiel
	John Brown
	Steve Scott

We wish to express our appreciation to all those who helped to make this production possible.

Our thanks to Brother Lee Barker, S. C., and Mr. Robert Magee for their cooperation.

This production by arrangement with Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc., 757 Third Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Mrs. Beverly Zimmerman	Producer
Mr. Burt Barrett	Director
Mrs. Judy Barrett	Make-up Supervisor
Brother Aquin Gauthier	Business Manager
Brother Joseph Donovan	Technical Director
Brother Melvin Estrade	Set Construction
Brother Timothy	Art Work
Kevin Collins	Scenery Design
Franya Franckiewicz	
Lisa Wagner	
Jack Faulkner	Construction
Mike Watts	
Kevin Collins	Stage Managers
Jack Faulkner	
Karl Nazelrod	Lights
Barry Smith	
James Cecil	Sound
Mrs. Elizabeth Drury	Set Advisor
David Macrae, Thomas Fain, Thomas Powell, Sylvan Manuel, Pierre Leger, Kathy Johnson, Lynn Phillips, Franya Franckiewicz, Colette Zimmerman	Publicity
Mr. Eddie Fayard	Photography
Mrs. Delia Steward	Choreography
Mrs. Pete Chapman	

Furnishings by Hillyer House.

Telephones installed through the courtesy of South Central Bell.

MUSIC

Mr. H. Davis Williams	Director
Mrs. Pat Hille	Pianist
Brother Eduardo	Assistant

ORCHESTRA

Cindy Smith	Annette Enmond	Richard Smith
Beth Monti	James Attaya	Frank Canova
Ed Matthews	Mike Ostrick	David Johns
Jay Schilleci	David Wiemar	Mike Hanson
Walter Turcott	Vic Franckiewicz	
David Labat	Bill Harreld	

Br. Xavier Werneth, May 2025